

What are Marine Protected Areas?

Marine protected areas (MPAs) are marine or estuarine waters set aside primarily to protect or conserve marine life and its associated habitat. MPAs have varying levels of protections and allowed uses.

Types of MPAs

California uses three main MPA classifications: State Marine Reserve (SMR), State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) and State Marine Park (SMP). The northern California region also includes a State Marine Recreational Management Area (SMRMA) and special closures.

Northern California MPAs

Northern California MPAs went into effect on December 19, 2012. The 19 MPAs, one SMRMA and seven special closures encompass 137 square miles (13 percent) of state waters in the northern California region, with about 51 of those miles designated as "no-take" SMRs. Northern California MPAs are part of a network of MPAs established statewide along the California coast.

Fishing may be restricted, but what other activities are permitted in an MPA?

Unless specifically prohibited, non-consumptive activities such as diving, surfing, swimming and boating are allowed within MPAs, as long as take restrictions are followed. It's a good idea to review the regulations before visiting an MPA.

For more information, visit www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa, email MLPAComments@dfg.ca.gov, or visit one of the following northern California DFG offices:



Eureka
619 2nd St.
Fort Bragg
32330 N. Harbor Dr.
Santa Rosa
5355 Skylane Blvd. Suite B

In 1999, California's Marine Life Protection Act was passed into law with a clear mandate: to re-evaluate all existing MPAs and potentially design new MPAs with input from a broad array of stakeholders. The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) was integral to this effort. The MPAs in this brochure were designed, in part, to:

- Protect and sustain marine life, habitats and ecosystems
- Provide opportunities to learn from and enjoy marine areas subject to reduced human disturbance

For more information, visit the California Marine Protected Area website at

www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa



Help stop poaching and polluting
1-888-DFG-CALTIP
1-888-334-2258

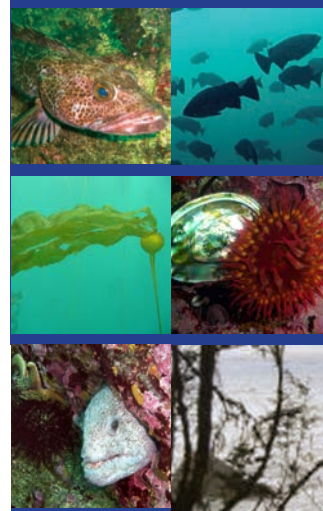


Sustainable Fish and Wildlife Resources



California Marine Protected Areas

Northern California: **Oregon-California Border to Alder Creek, near Pt. Arena**



DFG photos by K. Joe



College Cove, Trinidad
photo by K. Singh

Alternate communication formats of this document are available upon request. If reasonable accommodation is needed, call DFG at (707) 964-5026. The California Relay Service for the deaf or hearing-impaired can be utilized from TDD phones at (800) 735-2929.

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California Department of Fish and Game

Northern California MPA Regulations

Effective December 19, 2012

Note: This document does not replace the official regulatory language found in California Code of Regulations Title 14

SMR	MPA Name	Permitted/Prohibited Uses
	Reading Rock, South Cape Mendocino, Mattole Canyon, Sea Lion Gulch, Ten Mile, Point Cabrillo	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited.
SMCA	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited, EXCEPT:	
	Pyramid Point	Recreational take of surf smelt by dip net or Hawaiian type throw net. Includes take exemptions for some federal tribes ¹
	Point St. George Reef Offshore	Recreational and commercial take of salmon by trolling or troll fishing gear, and Dungeness crab by trap. Includes take exemptions for some federal tribes ¹
	Reading Rock, Samoa	Recreational take of salmon by trolling, surf smelt by dip net or Hawaiian type throw net and Dungeness crab by trap, hoop net or hand; Commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear, surf smelt by dip net and Dungeness crab by trap. Includes take exemptions for some federal tribes ¹
	Big Flat, Double Cone Rock	Recreational take of salmon by trolling and Dungeness crab by trap, hoop net or hand; Commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear and Dungeness crab by trap. Includes take exemptions for some federal tribes ¹
	Ten Mile Beach	Recreational take of Dungeness crab by trap, hoop net or hand; Commercial take of Dungeness crab by trap. Includes take exemptions for some federal tribes ¹
	Ten Mile Estuary ²	Waterfowl may be taken in accordance with general waterfowl regulations. Includes take exemptions for some federal tribes ¹
	MacKerricher, Russian Gulch, Van Damme	Commercial and recreational take in accordance with current regulations. Take of bull kelp and giant kelp is prohibited.
	Big River Estuary ²	Recreational take of surfperch by hook-and-line from shore only, and Dungeness crab by hoop net or hand. Take of waterfowl in accordance with general waterfowl regulations. Includes take exemptions for some federal tribes ¹
	Navarro River Estuary	Recreational take of salmonids by hook-and-line in accordance with salmonid regulations. Take of waterfowl in accordance with general waterfowl regulations. Includes take exemptions for some federal tribes ¹
SMRMA	South Humboldt Bay	Take of waterfowl in accordance with general waterfowl regulations. Includes take exemptions for some federal tribes ¹
Special Closure	Year Round: Southwest Seal Rock, Castle Rock, Sugarloaf Is.	Except as permitted by federal law or emergency caused by hazardous weather, no vessel shall be operated or anchored at any time from the mean high tide line to a distance of 300 ft. seaward of the lower low tide line of any shoreline of the special closure area.
	Mar. 1-Aug. 31 Only: False Klamath Rock, Steamboat Rock, Rockport Rocks, Vizcaino Rock	No person except employees of DFG, USFWS, NOAA or USCG during performance of their official duties, or unless permission is granted by DFW, shall enter the area.

MPA boundaries, maps, coordinates and allowed uses are available on your smartphone or other mobile or web-enabled device at

www.dfg.ca.gov/m/MPA.

This information is also available on the DFG website at

www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa

and from your local DFG office.



Northern California Marine Protected Areas



¹ Certain federally recognized tribes are exempted from the area and take regulations for this MPA. For information regarding tribal take, please see California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632(a)(11)

² This area allows take associated with operation and maintenance of artificial structures regulated by other agencies pursuant to any required federal, state and local permits, or as otherwise authorized by DFG.